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NPIC/TSSG/DED-1612-69
7 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Engineering Support Division, TSSG
THROUGH : Chief, Development & Engineering Division, TSSG
SUBJECT : Purchase of an Electron Microscope

1. The purchase of an electron microscope for retention at NPIC is not recommended; placement in an academic institution, with appropriate options for use, should be considered.

2. The study of photographic image boundary distortions, as they effect our images, can be accomplished with conventional optical equipment.

3. The level of research requiring an electron microscope is not consistent with the NPIC R&D mission. Should its use become necessary on a given project, the study could be performed by industry or an appropriate research institute.

4. The personnel required to operate an electron microscope must be highly competent. The priority for these people to work in other areas is greater than the need for the instrument at NPIC.

5. In the event that the electron microscope is purchased for retention and operation at an academic institution, maintenance could be made the responsibility of the institution. The fundamental nature of the research involved and the small sample sizes required would eliminate classification problems. Should [] participation be desirable, a suitable portion of the maintenance costs could be paid by that organization in return for operational time sharing. The results of all research performed on the instrument would be made available to the community.

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